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REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. A clean version of all pending claims is shown at pages 2-6 of the Reply. Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-3, 7 and 13 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3, 7 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bhatt *et al.* (U.S. 6,799,184) in view of Ohta *et al.* (U.S. 6,868,423). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Bhatt *et al.* and Ohta *et al.*, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of the subject claims.

To reject claims in an application under §103, an examiner must establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. A *prima facie* case of obviousness is established by a showing of three basic criteria. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. See MPEP §706.02(j). The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art and not based on applicant's disclosure. See *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

The subject claims relate to manipulating unstructured properties associated with a file and/or structured properties associated with an item to enhance consistency between files and associated items when the structured properties or unstructured properties are updated independent of the other. (See pg. 4, ll. 17-20). More particularly, independent claim 1 recites a file associated with one or more unstructured properties; an *item* that has one or more structured properties and is a *structured object representation of the file*; and a *file property handler* that manipulates at least one of the following: the

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unstructured properties based on changes to the structured properties and the structured properties based on changes to the unstructured properties. Bhatt *et al.* and Ohta *et al.*, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest such claimed aspects.

Bhatt *et al.* does not teach or suggest an *item* that is a **structured object representation of the file**. The Final Office Action contends that such aspects are disclosed in Bhatt *et al.* at figure 4A, column 11, lines 54-58 and column 13, lines 51-53 by stating the following: “a tree that has one or more nodes as attributes and is a structured object representation of the XML document. The tree is represented as an item. Nodes of a tree are presented as structured properties.” (See Final Office Action dated August 10, 2005, pg. 3-4). Applicants’ representative respectfully disagrees with such contention. Bhatt *et al.* discloses extracting, transforming, and persistently storing XML data in a relational database *via* employing an XML Store Engine, a Path Processor and an XQL Engine. (See col. 6, ll. 30-41). Bhatt *et al.* further notes that the “XML document is not stored with the transformed object” after the XML document is transformed. (See col. 15, ll. 9-10). It is stated that an XML Query Engine can be used to recompose the source document, but the document is not retained. (See col. 15, ll. 20-22). Bhatt *et al.* relates to extracting XML data from an XML document and removing the XML document; thus, the extracted XML data does not represent the XML document – instead, the extracted XML data is a replacement for the XML document. In contrast, the subject claim recites that the system includes both a *file* and an *item* that is a **structured object representation of the file**. Both the file and the item are utilized by the file property handler to perform the claimed manipulation such that a change to one or more properties associated with the file will result in a corresponding change to the properties associated with the item, and vice versa, which enhances consistency between a file and an associated item. Accordingly, Bhatt *et al.* fails to teach or suggest an item that is a structured object representation of the file.

As noted in the Final Office Action, Bhatt *et al.* does not teach or suggest “a file property handler that manipulates at least one of the following: the unstructured properties based on changes to the structured properties and the structured properties based on changes to the unstructured properties.” (See Final Office Action dated August 10, 2005, pg. 4). Furthermore, Bhatt *et al.* teaches away from such claimed aspects. In

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particular, Bhatt *et al.* notes that the XML document is not stored after the transformation is performed, as discussed above. Accordingly, properties associated with a file cannot be changed based on alterations made to the properties related to an item, and vice versa, if the file is removed (assuming, *arguendo*, that the XML document is a file associated with one or more unstructured properties as contended in the Final Office Action at page 3). Thus, Bhatt *et al.* teaches away from such claimed aspects; accordingly, there is no motivation to combine the teachings of Bhatt *et al.* with another reference to satisfy these claimed aspects.

Ohta *et al.* does not make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Bhatt *et al.* *vis a vis* independent claim 1. In particular, Ohta *et al.* does not teach or suggest an item that is a structured object representation of the file as claimed. Ohta *et al.* relates to managing data formats by converting data aggregates into hierarchical unit trees. (See abstract). Ohta *et al.* discloses that the data aggregate is converted into a hierarchical unit tree of the XML format, and the data aggregate is decomposed into processing units. (See col. 2, ll. 32-37). However, Ohta *et al.* is silent regarding an item being a structured object representation of a file as recited in the claims. Instead, Ohta *et al.* notes that the hierarchical unit tree does not include data but reflects only a data structure. (See col. 9, ll. 8-9). Thus, Ohta *et al.* fails to teach or suggest such claimed aspects.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is readily apparent that Bhatt *et al.* and Ohta *et al.*, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject invention as recited in independent claim 1 (and claims 2, 3, 7, and 13 which depend there from). This rejection should be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of Claims 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 12 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bhatt *et al.* (U.S. 6,799,184) in view of Ohta *et al.* (U.S. 6,868,423) and further in view of Inohara *et al.* (U.S. 6,385,606). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Bhatt *et al.*, Ohta *et al.* and Inohara *et al.*, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations set forth in the subject claims. In particular, Inohara *et al.* does not make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Bhatt *et al.* and Ohta *et al.* with respect to

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independent claim 1 (which claims 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 12 depend from). Therefore, the subject invention as recited in claims 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 12 is not obvious over the combination of Bhatt *et al.*, Ohta *et al.* and Inohara *et al.* Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection be withdrawn.

III. Rejection of Claims 10 and 11 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bhatt *et al.* (U.S. 6,799,184) in view of Ohta *et al.* (U.S. 6,868,423) and further in view of Abdelnur *et al.* (U.S. 6,429,882). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Bhatt *et al.*, Ohta *et al.* and Abdelnur *et al.*, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations set forth in the subject claims. In particular, Abdelnur *et al.* does not make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Bhatt *et al.* and Ohta *et al.* with respect to independent claim 1 (which claims 10 and 11 depend from). Therefore, the subject invention as recited in claims 10 and 11 is not obvious over the combination of Bhatt *et al.*, Ohta *et al.* and Abdelnur *et al.* Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection be withdrawn.

IV. Rejection of Claims 14 and 15 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bhatt *et al.* (U.S. 6,799,184) in view of Fitzsimons *et al.* (U.S. 6,708,189). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Bhatt *et al.* and Fitzsimons *et al.*, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of the subject claims.

Independent claim 14 recites means for transforming the unstructured file properties into structured item properties associated with the structured store application, the structured item properties are related to an item that is a structured object representation of the file. As noted *supra*, Bhatt *et al.* fails to teach or suggest an *item that is a structured object representation of the file*. Additionally, Fitzsimons *et al.* fails to make up for the aforementioned deficiency of Bhatt *et al.* with regard to independent claim 14. Fitzsimons *et al.* relates to converting a data file received by an automated

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publishing system from a source for use within presentation spaces of an automated publishing system. (*See abstract*). Fitzsimons *et al.* discloses parsing a data file to recover an identifier associated with a source and information content that can be employed by the automated publishing system. (*See col. 2, ll. 1-3*). Fitzsimons *et al.*, however, is silent regarding an item that is a structured object representation of the file. Thus, Fitzsimons *et al.* fails to teach or suggest such claimed aspects.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is readily apparent that Bhatt *et al.* and Fitzsimons *et al.*, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject invention as recited in independent claim 14 (and claim 15 which depends there from). This rejection should be withdrawn.

V. Rejection of Claims 16, 18, 19, and 21 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 16, 18, 19, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Inohara *et al.* (U.S. 6,385,606) in view of Ohta *et al.* (U.S. 6,868,423). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Inohara *et al.* and Ohta *et al.*, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of the subject claims.

In particular, independent claim 16 recites promoting one or more properties associated with the file to accordingly update properties associated with an item that is associated with the structured store namespace, the item is a structured object representation of the file in an object store. The Final Office Action suggests that Inohara *et al.* discloses "promoting one or more properties associated with the file" and notes that Inohara *et al.* fails to teach or suggest "to accordingly update properties associated with an item that is associated with the structured store namespace, the item is a structured object representation of the file in an object store." (*See Final Office Action dated August 10, 2005, pg. 15*).

The Office Action further asserts that Ohta *et al.* makes up for the deficiencies of Inohara *et al.* Applicants' representative disagrees with this assertion. As discussed above, Ohta *et al.* does not teach or suggest that an item is a structured object representation of a file. Additionally, Ohta *et al.* does not teach or suggest updating properties associated with an item based on properties associated with the file. Ohta *et*

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al. discloses that changes are made to the hierarchical unit tree, and then the XML data is converted to reflect the changes added to the hierarchical unit tree. (See col. 7, ll. 25-34). Assuming, *arguendo*, that the hierarchical unit tree is an item and the XML data is a file, Ohta *et al.* discloses updating the file based on changes to the item and not updating the item based on changes to the file. Thus, Ohta *et al.* fails to teach or suggest such claimed aspects.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is readily apparent that Inohara *et al.* and Ohta *et al.*, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject invention as recited in independent claim 16 (and claims 18, 19, and 21 which depend there from). This rejection should be withdrawn.

VI. Rejection of Claims 17, 25-27, 29 and 30 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 17, 25-27, 29 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Inohara *et al.* (U.S. 6,385,606) in view of Ohta *et al.* (U.S. 6,868,423) and further in view of Bhatt *et al.* (US 6,799,184). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Inohara *et al.*, Ohta *et al.* and Bhatt *et al.*, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every element set forth in the subject claims. In particular, Bhatt *et al.* does not make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Inohara *et al.* and Ohta *et al.* with respect to independent claim 16 (which claims 17, 25-27, 29, and 30 depend from). Therefore, the subject invention as recited in claims 17, 25-27, 29, and 30 is not obvious over the combination of Inohara *et al.*, Ohta *et al.* and Bhatt *et al.* Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection be withdrawn.

VII. Rejection of Claim 20 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Inohara *et al.* (U.S. 6,385,606) in view of Ohta *et al.* (U.S. 6,868,423) and further in view of Lee *et al.* (U.S. 6,061,696). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Inohara *et al.*, Ohta *et al.* and Lee *et al.*, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every element set forth in the subject claim. In particular, Lee *et al.* does not make up for the aforementioned

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deficiencies of Inohara *et al.* and Ohta *et al.* with respect to independent claim 16 (which claim 20 depends from). Therefore, the subject invention as recited in claim 20 is not obvious over the combination of Inohara *et al.*, Ohta *et al.* and Lee *et al.* Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection be withdrawn.

VIII. Rejection of Claims 22 and 24 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 22 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable Inohara *et al.* (US 6,385,606) in view of Ohta *et al.* (U.S. 6,868,423) and further in view of Fitzsimons *et al.* (U.S. 6,708,189). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Inohara *et al.*, Ohta *et al.* and Fitzsimons *et al.*, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every element set forth in the subject claims. In particular, Fitzsimons *et al.* does not make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Inohara *et al.* and Ohta *et al.* with respect to independent claim 16 (which claims 22 and 24 depend from). Therefore, the subject invention as recited in claims 22 and 24 is not obvious over the combination of Inohara *et al.*, Ohta *et al.* and Fitzsimons *et al.* Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection be withdrawn.

IX. Rejection of Claim 23 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Inohara *et al.* (U.S. 6,385,606) in view of Ohta *et al.* (U.S. 6,868,423) and further in view of Ahluwalia (U.S. 6,728,685). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Inohara *et al.*, Ohta *et al.* and Ahluwalia, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every element set forth in the subject claim. In particular, Ahluwalia does not make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Inohara *et al.* and Ohta *et al.* with respect to independent claim 16 (which claim 23 depends from). Therefore, the subject invention as recited in claim 23 is not obvious over the combination of Inohara *et al.*, Ohta *et al.* and Ahluwalia. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection be withdrawn.

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X. Rejection of Claim 28 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Inohara *et al.* (U.S. 6,385,606) in view of Ohta *et al.* (U.S. 6,868,423) and further in view of Bhatt *et al.* (U.S. 6,799,184) and Fitzsimons *et al.* (U.S. 6,708,189). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Inohara *et al.*, Ohta *et al.*, Bhatt *et al.* and Fitzsimons *et al.*, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every element set forth in the subject claim. In particular, Bhatt *et al.* and Fitzsimons *et al.* do not make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Inohara *et al.* and Ohta *et al.* with respect to independent claim 16 (which claim 28 depends from). Therefore, the subject invention as recited in claim 28 is not obvious over the combination of Inohara *et al.*, Ohta *et al.*, Bhatt *et al.* and Fitzsimons *et al.* Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection be withdrawn.

XI. Rejection of Claim 31 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 31 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Inohara *et al.* (U.S. 6,385,606) in view of Bhatt *et al.* (U.S. 6,799,184). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Inohara *et al.* and Bhatt *et al.*, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of the subject claim.

Inohara *et al.* and Bhatt *et al.*, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest that the item data is related to an item that is a structured object representation of a file, which is related to the file data as recited in independent claim 31. The Final Office Action notes that Inohara *et al.* does not teach or suggest "the item data is related to an item that is a structured object representation of a file, which is related to the file data." (See Final Office Action dated August 10, 2005, pg. 24). Additionally, Bhatt *et al.* fails to make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Inohara *et al.* *vis a vis* independent claim 31. In particular, as noted above, Bhatt *et al.* does not teach or suggest that an item is a structured object representation of a file. Accordingly, Inohara *et al.* and Bhatt *et al.*, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest such aspects recited in independent claim 31.

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In view of at least the foregoing, it is readily apparent that Inohara *et al.* and Bhatt *et al.*, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject invention as recited in independent claim 31. This rejection should be withdrawn.

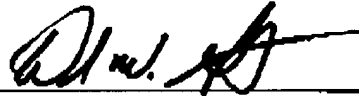
CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

AMIN & TUROCY, LLP



David W. Grillo
Reg. No. 52,970

AMIN & TUROCY, LLP
24TH Floor, National City Center
1900 E. 9TH Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Telephone (216) 696-8730
Facsimile (216) 696-8731